

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing boehmitic aluminas by hydrolysis of aluminium alcoholates in aqueous, alkaline solution forming a mixture, followed by hydrothermal aging, characterised in that

(A) the hydrolysis is carried out at pH values above 9.5 at a temperature of from 50° to 95°C and

the hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging of the mixture resulting from the hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 0.5 wt.% of carboxylic acids having at least one additional substituent, the salts thereof or their derivatives which during hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging are at least partially converted into the free carboxylic acid or the dissociated form thereof, wherein said at least one additional substituent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-, oxo- and amino groups; and

- (B) the boehmitic aluminas prepared in step (A) are subjected to an aging step at 120°C to 250°C for at least 1 hour to provide a boehmitic alumina [[to]] which converts to an alpha phase ~~only~~ at a temperature of above 1350°C.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to claim 1, characterised in that the substituted carboxylic acid, their derivatives or the salt thereof is added in

quantities of 0.2 to 0.4 wt.%, referring to the total mass of the premix composition and calculated as substituted carboxylic acid.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The process according to any one of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the substituted carboxylic acid, their derivatives or the salts thereof are selected from the group consisting hydroxycarboxylic acids, hydroxydicarboxylic acids, hydroxytricarboxylic acids, dihydroxydicarboxylic acids, oxocarboxylic acids, amino acids and mixtures thereof.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The process according to any one of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the hydrolysis is carried out at a temperature of from 60 to 95°C.
5. **(Cancelled)**
6. **(Currently Amended)** The process according to any one of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the aging step in (B) is carried out at temperatures ranging from 130°C to 220°C, ~~preferably 205°C to 215°C~~ for at least 1 hour, ~~preferably at least 2 hours.~~
7. **(Currently Amended)** The process according to claim 6, characterised in that the aging step in step (B) is carried out in an aqueous environment with a solid matter concentration, $[(I)]$ calculated as $Al_2O_3[(I)]$, at the beginning of the aging step

ranging from 2 to 17 wt.%, ~~preferably 5 to 10 wt.%,~~ referring to the total mass of composition subjected to aging.

8-14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing boehmitic aluminas by hydrolysis of aluminium alcoholates in aqueous, alkaline solution forming a mixture, optionally followed by hydrothermal aging, characterised in that

- (A) the hydrolysis is carried out by mixing the aluminum alcoholate with an aqueous alkaline premix containing a pH adjuster to provide a hydrolysis mixture and hydrolyzing the aluminum alcoholate in the hydrolysis mixture at pH values above 9 and at a temperature of 50 to 95°C and the hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging of the mixture resulting from the hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 0.5 wt.% of carboxylic acids having at least one additional substituent, the salts thereof or their derivatives which during hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging are at least partially converted into the free carboxylic acid or the dissociated form thereof, wherein said at least one additional substituent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-, oxo- and amino groups; and
- (B) the boehmitic aluminas prepared in step (A) are subjected to an aging step at 120°C to 250°C for at least 1 hour, to provide a boehmitic alumina

[[to]] which converts to an alpha phase ~~only~~ at a temperature of above 1350°C.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing boehmitic aluminas by hydrolysis of aluminium alcoholates in aqueous, alkaline solution forming a mixture, optionally followed by hydrothermal aging, characterised in that

(A) the hydrolysis is carried out at pH values above 9.5 at a temperature of from 50°C to 95°C and

the hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging of the mixture resulting from the hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 0.5 wt.% of carboxylic acids having an amino group, the salts thereof or their derivatives which during hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging are at least partially converted into the free carboxylic acid or the dissociated form thereof; and

- (B) the boehmitic aluminas prepared in step (A) are subjected to an aging step at 120°C to 250°C for at least 1 hour, to provide a boehmitic alumina
[[to]] which converts to an alpha phase ~~only~~ at a temperature of above 1350°C.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~method~~ process of claim 1 wherein the hydrolysis is carried out by mixing the aluminum alcoholate with an aqueous alkaline premix containing a pH adjuster to provide a hydrolysis mixture and thereafter hydrolyzing the aluminum alcoholate in the hydrolysis mixture.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A process for preparing boehmitic aluminas by hydrolysis of aluminium alcoholates in aqueous, alkaline solution forming a mixture, optionally followed by hydrothermal aging, characterised in that

- (A) the hydrolysis is carried out at pH values above 9.5 and the hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging of the mixture resulting from the hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 0.5 wt.% of carboxylic acids having an amino group, the salts thereof or their derivatives which during hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging are at least partially converted into the free carboxylic acid or the dissociated form thereof; and
- (B) the boehmitic aluminas prepared in step (A) are subjected to an aging step at 120°C to 250°C for at least 1 hour.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A process for preparing boehmitic aluminas by hydrolysis of aluminium alcoholates in aqueous, alkaline solution forming a mixture, followed by hydrothermal aging, characterised in that

- (A) the hydrolysis is carried out at pH values above 9.5 at a temperature of from 50° to 95°C and the hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging of the mixture resulting from the hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of 0.1 to 0.5 wt.% of carboxylic acids having at least one additional substituent, the salts thereof or their derivatives which during hydrolysis and/or the hydrothermal aging

are at least partially converted into the free carboxylic acid or the dissociated form thereof, wherein said at least one additional substituent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-, oxo- and amino groups; and

- (B) the boehmitic aluminas prepared in step (A) are subjected to an aging step at 120°C to 250°C for at least 1 hour [[C]].
20. (New) The process according to any one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the aging step in (B) is carried out at temperatures ranging from 205°C to 215°C.
21. (New) The process according to claim 6, characterized in that the aging step in (B) is carried out at temperatures ranging from 130°C to 220°C for at least 2 hours.
22. (New) The process according to claim 6, characterized in that the aging step in (B) is carried out at temperatures ranging from 205°C to 215°C for at least 2 hours.